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Set and Drift

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SET AND DRIFT



Alfred Thayer Mahan Award. Comdr. James A. Barber, U.S. Navy, recently of the Naval War College staff, has been awarded the Navy League Alfred Thayer Mahan Award for literary achievement. The Naval War College is indeed honored to have one of its faculty receive this prestigious award, one which recognizes Commander Barber's outstanding literary contributions to the knowledge of seapower and contemporary naval affairs, an example of which is the lead article in this issue of the *Naval War College Review*. In receiving the Mahan Award, he joins such distinguished past holders of this honor as Hanson Baldwin, Samuel Eliot Morison, and George Fielding Eliot.

Besides his own writing, Commander Barber has been the source of intellectual inspiration for students at the Naval War College who have done research and creative writing on naval strategy. This he did as a faculty adviser and also as the director of a seminar program in Contemporary Strategy, a position he held for 2 years.

While Commander Barber's most recent achievements are those of a military scholar, he has—as a middle-grade officer—received much professional satisfaction from a challenging and fulfilling career in naval operations. As a newly commissioned officer he served aboard the attack carrier U.S.S. *Lexington* (CVA 16) and thence in three destroyers prior to reporting for duty at the Naval War College. Two of these assignments were as executive officer of the U.S.S. *Henry W. Tucker* (DD 875) and commanding officer of

the U.S.S. *Hissem* (DER 400). Commander Barber is scheduled to assume command of the U.S.S. *Schofield* (DEG 3) in July.

Resident Naval War College Graduate Completes Correspondence Study. Capt. Harry R. Moore, U.S. Navy, has achieved a unique record at the Naval War College. He recently was awarded a diploma in the Correspondence Course of Naval Warfare and, thusly, became the first graduate of both the resident School of Naval Warfare (Class of 1963) and the comprehensive correspondence course program. In a letter to the War College, Captain Moore had this to say of his experience,

The experience of correspondence study through the Naval War College over the last 22 years has enriched my naval career. As a junior officer, while primarily concerned with developing leadership ability and technical competence, correspondence study enabled me to broaden my perspective. As a senior officer, correspondence study has helped me to keep current in several important areas within the naval profession. Importantly, I have had occasion to apply concepts learned through such study. Nonresident courses

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have the self-evident advantage of permitting the student to fully manage his own time while he independently pursues his educational goals.

I consider myself fortunate to have had the benefit of both nonresident and resident study. I would like to think that my earlier pursuit of correspondence study through the Naval War College, directly or indirectly, had some bearing upon my subsequent selection to attend in residence. Regardless, my year in residence was the most productive year in my entire educational experience. However, in the resident course, the allocation of one's time proved to be a crucial factor. The student finds himself engrossed in so much of interest that he must divide his time judiciously. In my case, it often became necessary to limit research and study within certain areas of interest in order to gain a desirable balance. On the other hand, in a nonresident course one can generally pursue study within a specific area to the limit desired.

The subjects offered as nonresident courses, in my opinion, provide appropriate preparation for anyone who aspires to command at sea. In the world of today, it is vital that command decisions be made with a full appreciation of any international impact. Such need, of course, has existed since the earliest days of our Navy. However, the affairs of nations are now more interrelated and more complicated.

Finally, I must express deep appreciation to the Naval War College for the manner in which the courses are administered. Originality of thought is fully encouraged, and each solution is critically appraised, based upon its soundness. Specifically, nonresident evaluators have for me been most generous of their time. Their notes, exemplary of their high competence, have served to further broaden my views. The instructor-student relationship was outstanding. I wholeheartedly recommend the Naval War College program of correspondence study.

